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Indonesia: Pressures against President Sukarno continue to mount, but he still shows no disposition to resign or to leave the country.

Sources close to Foreign Minister Malik report that he assured the President on 31 January that no action would be taken against him if he would voluntarily step down. Sukarno is said to have demurred.

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According to Malik, evidence against Sukarno now being collected by the attorney general is for use chiefly in persuading the President to resign. If Sukarno refuses to leave voluntarily, however, the evidence will be used against him.

Anti-Sukarno, pro-army ranks in parliament were considerably strengthened on 1 February by the addition of 108 new appointees, including at least 20 student and youth leaders. Parliament makes up part of the congress, the nation's highest policy-making body and the only one authorized to take formal action against the President. The government is considering the exclusion of political party members as regional representatives to the congress, a move that would further strengthen the army's influence.

A large student demonstration before parliament on 30 January called for congress to meet in special session to remove Sukarno from office and to commission an investigation of charges that he was involved in the abortive coup plot of October 1965. Parliament is scheduled to discuss this request today and tomorrow.

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Egypt: The Egyptian Government apparently is becoming convinced that a major clash between US and Egyptian interests cannot be avoided.

In a discussion on 31 January with US officials, Vice-President Muhi al-Din said that US-Egyptian relations were at their lowest ebb since 1952, even worse than during the 1956-59 crises in the Middle East. He insinuated that the present strain between the US and Egypt was due primarily to US support for the regimes in Jordan and Saudi Arabia, which he claimed were out to cripple, if not destroy, the Egyptian regime. He stated flatly that the objective of the January 27-28 Egyptian bombing of Najran in Saudi Arabia was to bring physical and moral pressure on King Faisal to stop supporting royalist activity against the Egyptian-backed Yemen Arab Republic.

Muhi al-Din intimated that economic considerations were also involved. He acknowledged that the Egyptian economic situation is not good, and that the next few years will be difficult. While not directly mentioning Nasir's charge that the US is waging a "war of starvation," he appeared to believe that there was something sinister in the US Government's delay in responding to Egypt's request for aid.

These remarks would seem to be an accurate reflection of at least one aspect of the Nasir regime's current view of Middle East developments. It is not clear at this point whether this attitude will result in some new Egyptian action against Western interests. These remarks do indicate that Cairo is not now disposed to moderate those policies that bring it into conflict with the US.

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Israel-Syria: Israel and Syria failed again yesterday to make any progress in negotiations over farming rights in the demilitarized zone, but another meeting is planned for next week. Israel charges, and UN officials agree, that Syria had tried to go beyond the farming issue in raising the problem of the zone's political status. Local UN officials, nevertheless, are preparing a report that places much of the blame for the recurrent border trouble on Israel's claim to sovereignty over the zone--a claim which contradicts the 1949 armistice agreement.

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE

The United States Intelligence Board on 2 February 1967 approved the following national intelligence estimate:

NIE 27.1-67, "Spain: The Succession Problem and Prospects for Change in Foreign Policy"

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